Rights Commission against the Indian Government's handling of the Ayodhya issue;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) and (b) Government have noted the address by the Prime Minister of Pakistan to the 49th Session of the Commission on Human Rights at Geneva on 2nd February 1993 where he alleged that Batori Masjid was allowed to be destroyed and thousands of Muslims were killed in ensuing Violence.

(c) Government have conveyed to Government of Pakistan our deep regret and strong disappointment over such statements, which apart from constituting an unacceptable interference in our internal affain, served only in exacerbating public sentiments.

India's Nuclear and Space Programme

1785. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India's nuclear and space programmes wiil be significantly affected by the recent US initiated revision of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), as per the news item entitled 'Revised MTCR to affect India's Plans', which appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated February 2, 1993; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) and (b) USA and other members of' the MTCR announced revised guidelines extending the scope of restrictions from "missiles capable of carrying nuclear weapons" to "missiles capable of carrying any weapon of mass destruction", thus lowering the thresholds established earlier. Specific thresholds however, have not been announced under the revised guidelines. In May 1992, the US imposed an embargo on ISRO for a period of two years in respect of components and systems for space programmes. This embargo is still in operation. Despite these restraints, the Government is committed to pursuing the space programme with a view to establishing a self-reliant base in space sciences and space technology.

Observations of Pakistan P.M. on Kashmir Issue

1786. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have seen reports of the observations of the Prime Minister of Pakistan on the Kashmir issue during his address to the U.N. Commission on human rights in Geneva on February 2, and also Pakistan National Assembly's resolution on the same subject in its session on February 4, 1993;

(b) whether Government is aware that the Jammat-i-Islami has called an all party meeting in Lahore on February 6, 1993 to express solidarity with the militants and terrorists in Kashmir; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take or has taken to warn Pakistan Government against blatant interference in India's international affairs ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Pakistan's attempts to internationalise the Kashmir issue are in violation of the Simla Agreement. This is deeply regrettable and raises serious doubts about Pakistan's sincerity in pursuing a bilateral dialogue. Pakistan's recent statements and actions are totally unacceptable, constituting an interference in our internal affairs. Government have firmly (old Pakistan that in order to create an atmosphere for any meaningful discussions Pakistan should abandon its negative and confrontational approach and give up its support to terrorism and subversion directed against India.

Passport issued by the Passport Offices

1787. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) number of applications for passports received in each week during January to